

To: Ward, W. Robert[Ward.Robert@epa.gov]; Dolph, Becky[Dolph.Becky@epa.gov]; Boydston, Michael[Boydston.Michael@epa.gov]; Mills, Derek[Mills.Derek@epa.gov]
From: Michaud, John
Sent: Fri 10/16/2015 12:41:17 PM
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Attorney Client/Ex. 5

John R Michaud
Acting Associate General Counsel
Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office
202-564-5518
michaud.john@epa.gov

From: Ward, W. Robert
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 5:11 PM
To: Michaud, John <Michaud.John@epa.gov>; Dolph, Becky <Dolph.Becky@epa.gov>; Boydston, Michael <Boydston.Michael@epa.gov>; Mills, Derek <Mills.Derek@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Attorney Client/Ex. 5

W. Robert Ward
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
303-312-7100 (direct)

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not the intended recipient, or believe you received this communication in error, please delete it immediately, do not copy, and notify the sender. Thank you.

From: Card, Joan
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Ward, W. Robert
Cc: Harrison, Melissa; StClair, Christie; Grantham, Nancy
Subject: FW: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Bob, we've distributed a couple of photos to congressionals, locals and on a SitRep. I think the question now is: **Attorney Client/Ex. 5**

From: Mitchell, Stacey
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:39 PM
To: Card, Joan
Cc: StClair, Christie; Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Attorney Client/Ex. 5

Stacey H. Mitchell

Deputy General Counsel

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20460

Main 202.564.8064

Direct [202.564.7614](#)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 15, 2015, at 4:20 PM, Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov> wrote:

Stacey, this facility is visible from a public road. Media also viewing it on site today.

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:16 PM

To: Card, Joan; Grantham, Nancy

Cc: Harrison, Melissa; Mitchell, Stacey

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

One photo, plus a second version with labels. I'd like to share both.

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Card, Joan
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Cc: Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Stacey <Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Christie's email says photos, plural. I'm aware of the one that has already be issued in the latest SitRep. I think it makes sense to share it with reporters also.

Joan

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:06 PM
To: StClair, Christie
Cc: Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa; Mitchell, Stacey; Card, Joan
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

I would think so – reporters are up there now seeing the same thing and they are out photos .. looping in several others to make sure we aren't missing something. Thanks ng

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:54 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

OK to share these photos with AP and Denver Post? Anybody else?

Christie St. Clair

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From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:49 PM

To: Larry Rader <larry.rader@mecx.net>

Cc: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Thanks much .. great photos ..thanks ng

From: Larry Rader [<mailto:larry.rader@mecx.net>]

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:45 PM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Hello Nancy-

Here is the photo of the GKM Gladstone water treatment system you requested. One photo has the labels, the other does not. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank You,

larry d. rader, p.g. | director | mecx
mobile 815.997.0829
office 713.585.7000 ext. 7030
Fax 713.585.7049
356 outer drive | somonauk, il 60552

A Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business

Larry.Rader@mecx.net
www.mecx.net

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*P.G. in: IL, TX, AR, TN

From: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Larry Rader <larry.rader@mecx.net>
Cc: "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>, "StClair, Christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Thanks

From: Larry Rader [mailto:larry.rader@mecx.net]

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Will do. We ran up to the mine this morning. I will email it to you as soon as I get back to the ICP in Durango.

Larry D. Rader, PG

Director

MECX

(815) 997-0829

On Oct 15, 2015, at 11:36, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

I believe larry rader in the ICP has it as he prepared the situation report – larry – can you send it to all of us? thanks ng

From: Gray, David
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; larry.rader@mecx.net
Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Can someone send it to me so I can share with Senator Heinrich?

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 15, 2015, at 12:27 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

We should definitely use the photo – as it is on the cover of the sit rep – assume it

is our photo and we can use it? Thanks ng

From: Card, Joan
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Cc: Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Natarajan, Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>; Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

David, There's a photo on the cover of the most recent Sit Rep if I'm remembering correctly. I'll forward.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Oct 15, 2015, at 11:17 AM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Did we ever get a photo of the system? We had requests after the earlier announcement that are still pending.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 15, 2015, at 12:13 PM, Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov> wrote:

Attorney Client/Ex. 5

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

(202) 566-0197

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:11 PM

To: Deitz, Randy; Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

All,

Here is a draft statement and supporting QAs for notifications. I've updated based on Dana's and Randy's suggestions – revisions are in green for review.

R9, can you handle NN Notifications?

Rebecca, please do notify CDPHE.

Please let me and Nancy know if you have any edits. I'll send a final version so that Rebecca and R9 can begin notifications.

Thanks,

Christie

Gold King Mine Water Treatment Plant About to Commence Treatment

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Additional details on the water treatment plant and future plans are contained in the Q&A below.

For the Sept. 23 press release on the water treatment plant, please visit:
<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/september-23-2015-epa-announces-gold-king-mine-water-treatment-system-winter-2015-16>

For regular updates on Gold King Mine activities, please visit:
<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

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Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Deitz, Randy

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:09 PM

To: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>

Cc: Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Natarajan, Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Cheatham, Reggie

<cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy
<Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>;
Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly
<ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>;
Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for
media, site visit, external notifications)

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

(202) 566-0197

From: Stalcup, Dana
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:56 PM
To: StClair, Christie
Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; Deitz, Randy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for
media, site visit, external notifications)

Thanks for folding these together.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Thanks – Dana S

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
(OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:35 PM

Cc: Ostrander, David; Stalcup, Dana; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; Deitz, Randy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Stalcup, Dana; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Plus David Gray

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:23 PM

Cc: Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>;

McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Natarajan, Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>
Subject: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

All,

There are two email threads circulating right now, covering the same ground. I'm combining the cc list for both the Associated Press and Gold King Mine – Water Treatment threads. Please loop anybody else needed.

Here is an updated Q&A for use with current media inquiries (AP and Denver Post both writing on this today), new media inquiries that will come in, today's GKM site visit, and notifications to states, tribes and local stakeholders.

This update deletes contact referrals to CDPHE.

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Nancy and I are meeting in a moment to discuss.

Thanks,

Christie

Q: Exactly where is the treatment plant going to be installed?

[Final, approved response] The plant will be installed at the Gladstone, CO command post area, about 10 miles north of Silverton, CO and the junction of Country Rtes 110 and 35.

Q: How will the plant treat the toxic wastewater? (i.e. what is the exact process by which the toxic material will be removed from the water?)

[Final, approved response] Here is basic technical information provided by the sub-contractor, based on their experience they are confident that the plant design will achieve:

- Discharging treated water from the system will have a neutral pH in the range of between 6.0 and 9.0 pH units. (pH, or the acidity of a fluid ranges from 0.0 for acid to 14.0 for caustic fluids and neutral is 7.0)
- Dissolved solids will be reduced by removal of metals and formation of metal hydroxide sludge.
- Total solids will be reduced by coagulation, flocculation, and settling through the clarifier.
- Color is currently caused primarily by iron oxidation, and staining is caused both by iron and manganese in the mine water forming precipitates on rocks and in sediments. The treatment process will remove both iron and manganese by more than 90%, reducing the potential for color.

Q: After treatment, will the water be of high enough quality for drinking?

[Final, approved response] This plant is not designed to output drinking quality water; see EPA's September 23, 2015 press release for more detail on intent and purpose.

Q: What is the cleanup rate for total and dissolved metals?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Q: When will it start operating?

[Final, approved response] All the major components for the water treatment plant are now on-site. Pipe has been run from the Gold King Mine treatment ponds down to the Gladstone site. We are now connecting all the components, and anticipate that water will start flowing on Friday, Oct. 16. It will then take about a week to fully adjust the treatment system for optimal performance.

Q: Will the treatment plant address contaminated water spilling from sites other than Gold King Mine?

[Final, approved response] Please keep in mind that the water treatment plant is addressing only discharge from Gold King Mine. It will make some improvement in water quality in Cement Creek, but is not intended to be a solution to the broader problem of discharging mine in the Upper Animas. Mines in the area have been releasing contaminated mine wastewater into the environment for decades, and addressing the situation is a complicated problem. (The Red and Bonita Mine, for example, continues to discharge at 350 gpm directly into Cement Creek.)

Q: What are the next steps for long-term improvement to the Upper Animas region?

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Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Christie St. Clair

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